

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Guidelines for Submission of Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Proposals

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has prioritized funds to develop habitat enhancement projects for both upland and migratory game birds. The Upland Game Bird Stamp fund (UGBSF) and Migratory Game Bird Stamp fund (MGBSF) may be used only for management, or acquisition, lease, or development of game bird habitats. This grant process is intended to sponsor smaller-scale habitat projects designed to restore, manage, and conserve prairie, wetland, savannah, and riparian habitats with the express purpose of benefiting upland game bird species, and breeding and wintering waterfowl. TPWD has established an application process for the recruitment of projects and disposition of the grants.

TPWD will post Call for Proposals (CFPs) on the [TPWD website](#) by February 3, 2014. Applicants requesting upland stamp funding are encouraged to coordinate with local [TPWD biologists](#) or Small Game Program staff. In the absence of a formal CFP, applicants should use the Game Bird Strategic Plans as a guide proposal development ([Upland. Waterfowl, and Webless Migratory Birds](#)). Deadline for submission of proposals is 5:00 p.m., April 7, 2014 for projects that start in the following fiscal year (FY) (September 1 – August 31). TPWD will contact successful applicants during the first week of June.

TPWD anticipates that successful proposals during this cycle will have funds available through August 31, 2015. Total funds available will determine the number and/or size of grants awarded each year. CFPs may not be published annually if sufficient funds are not available. If funds are insufficient to fully support the highest-ranked proposal, the applicant will be provided an opportunity to revise their proposed budget. If the revised budget exceeds available funds, consideration will be given to the next highest-ranked proposal.

Habitat proposals are encouraged from non-government organizations (NGO), governmental agencies outside of TPWD (city, county, state, or federal), and higher education institutions. Applicants must be in good standing with the Texas Comptroller and TPWD Accounting regarding business and contracting practices. Applicants that are delinquent or deficient in providing deliverables or an approved final report from any previously awarded contract are not eligible for consideration. TPWD has statutory, fiduciary, and ethical responsibilities to the people of the State of Texas for efficient use of limited public resources. The requirements in these guidelines must be consistent with relevant laws, policies, and customary accounting procedures.

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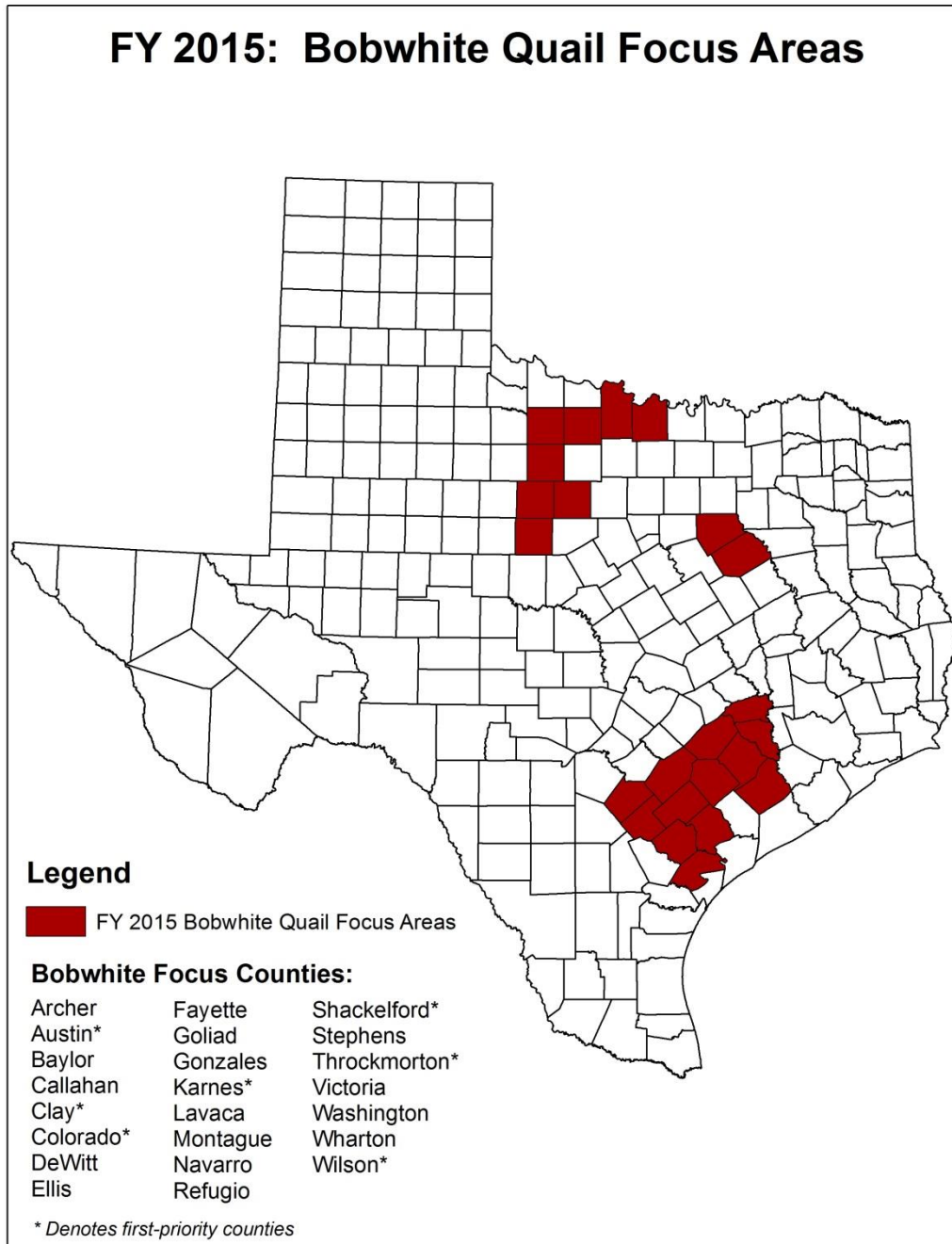
Proposals submitted on or prior to the April 7, 2014, deadline will undergo a TPWD internal review process. Small Game Program staff and the TPWD Game Bird Technical Committees will review and rank all proposals ensuring each meets the minimum criteria and has technical merit. Applicants with missing or incomplete information or proposals outside of the scope of the CFPs may be provided an opportunity to revise their proposals. Department staff will present the list of proposals recommended for funding to the respective Game Bird Advisory Committee for comment. Upon completion of this process, TPWD will contact the successful applicants and prepare either a Memorandum of Understanding (NGOs) or an Inter-agency Contract for the work to be performed.

Bobwhite quail focus counties (Figure 1) will receive priority ranking for available Upland funds. These focus counties were established by the TPWD Resident Game Bird Technical Committee to address habitat issues at a local scale to concentrate conservation efforts and serve as demonstration areas for bobwhite habitat management.

Migratory bird management transcends state boundaries. To meet the annual habitat requirements, TPWD will consider habitat proposals that extend beyond the boundaries of Texas and will include important breeding areas as part of this proposal. Figure 2 depicts migratory game bird focus areas.

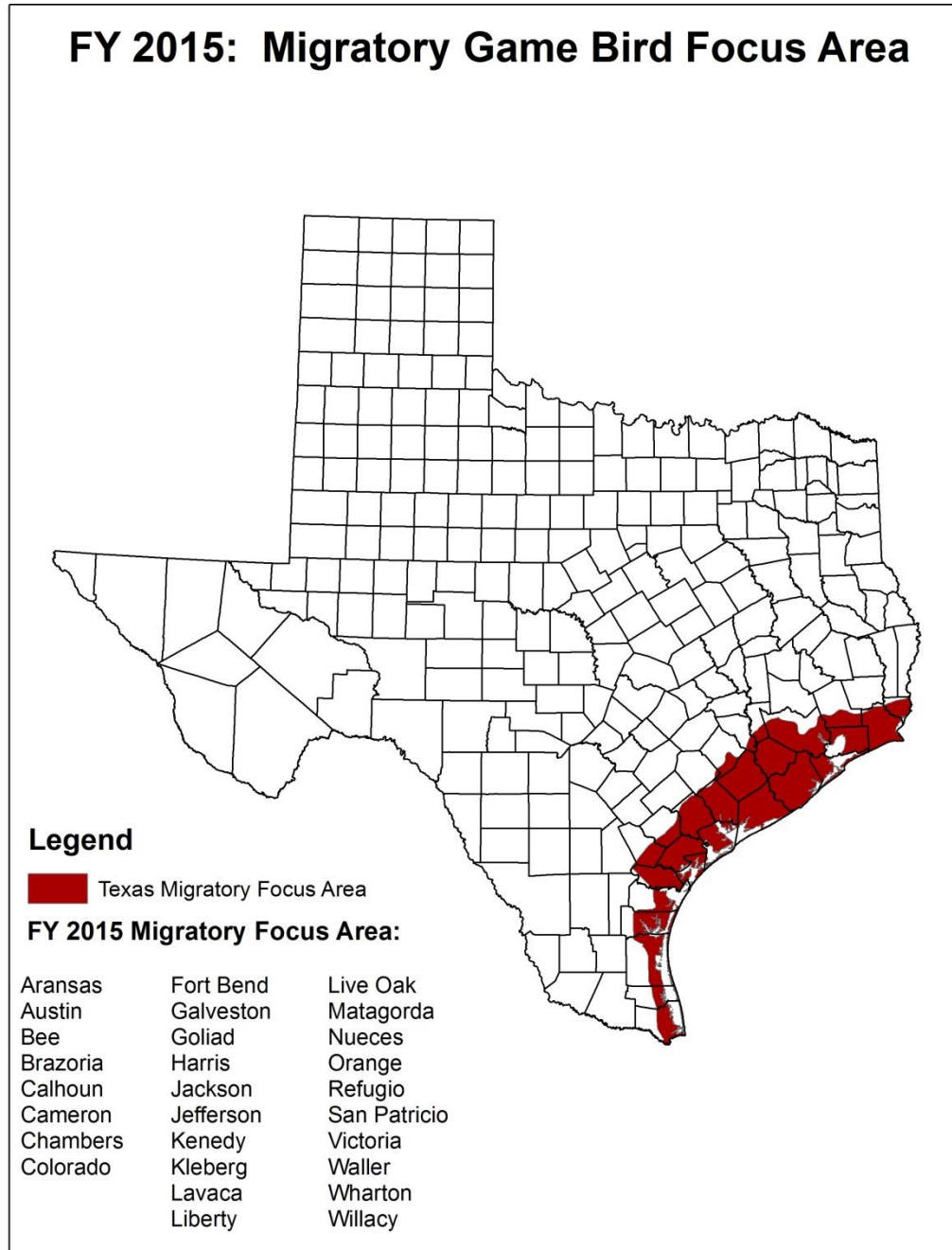
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Figure 1. Texas map identifying priority Bobwhite Quail Focus Areas



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Figure 2. Map identifying the priority Breeding/Wintering Migratory Game Bird Focus Area for the Gulf Coastal Regions of Texas.



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Instructions for Completing TPWD Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Proposal

1. Project Title: Provide a brief, but thorough description of the proposed project. Include local names in title rather than generic terms.
2. General Location: List project location(s) including the county and directions from the nearest town. Include a map. The location map and description should include the watershed and other local names that will help identify the area. If applicable, list any wildlife cooperatives or wildlife management associations associated with the project/location.
3. Applicant Information: Identify the specific contact person. Include address, phone numbers, fax numbers, e-mail addresses, and professional title. This information is necessary to schedule site visits and future correspondence. List the name and title of the TPWD biologist sponsoring the proposal.
4. Project Type: Identify the type of project proposed. Examples: prescribed burning, equipment maintenance, native grass restoration, brush management, water development, wetland restoration, timber stand improvement, wildlife corridor development, wildlife openings, invasive/exotic plant removal, riparian fencing, riparian plantings, grazing management, standardized game bird species monitoring, game bird cooperative development, game bird education, etc.
(Personal property valued at \$5,000 or greater and/or equipment with a lifespan of more than one year may not be purchased through this application process.)
5. Size of Project Area and Treatment Site(s): Include the size of the project area (cooperative, WMA, ranch, etc.) and the size of the area to be enhanced, developed, reclaimed, restored, or maintained in acres, miles, etc. Example: 5,000-acre ranch with, 1,000 acres to be prescribed burned in 50 acre units, including construction of 4 miles of new firebreaks and 2 miles of roadbed reseeding.
6. Implementation Schedule: Provide a schedule of project implementation including the month and year when each aspect of the project will begin and end.
7. Proposed Budget: Provide information for each line item (consistent with

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- the scheduled task) including the funding requested from the State as well as all matching funds provided by the applicant(s) and other sponsor(s) and cooperators. List the number of years of matching funds currently available for this project.
- a. Personnel
 - b. Travel
 - c. Equipment
 - d. Supplies
 - e. Subcontractor services
 - f. Total costs
8. Target Species: List all species to benefit from the habitat project. Species other than game bird species should be included (e.g., grassland birds with an emphasis on bobwhite quail; wintering waterfowl and mottled duck nesting habitat).
9. Habitat Types and Area Description: Identify the habitat types where the project site occurs (e.g., mesquite savannah, tall grass prairie, freshwater marsh, rice field, or commercial pine plantation) and a description of the project area (vegetation, soils, management). Attach a map detailing project location, along with locator map for state or region orientation.
10. Project Objectives: Provide an estimate of total acres of suitable habitat for targeted species that would be created, enhanced, and/or restored through the grant. Define by description how success will look for each management unit as the project develops to completion. For example:
- a. The 37-acre wetland will be created from fallow rice field utilizing the entire rice field (111 acres) and Sandy Creek overbank events as the hydrologic drivers. Volunteer herbaceous vegetation will be allowed to flourish. Woody plants (trees, shrubs, and vines) and invasive species will be managed by plowing/discing, mowing/shredding, prescribed fire, herbicides, grazing or a combination thereof. The 3-year goal is to have a functioning prairie wetland dominated by herbaceous wetland vegetation.
 - b. The 9-acre forested wetland created in a partially cleared area of bottomland floodplain forest will utilize the San Jacinto River as the hydrologic driver. Cleared areas will be planted in preferred hard and soft mast species (subject to availability) such as Nuttall's oak, white oak, overcup oak, water oak, willow oak, pin oak, water tupelo, bald cypress and common buttonbush. Undesirable

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volunteer trees and shrubs will be removed by hand. The 5-year goal is to provide a floodplain forest dominated by desirable overstory and understory woody species to facilitate the long-term goal of a functioning mature bottomland hardwood community.

11. Project Strategies: List the strategies that will create, enhance or restore habitat for targeted game bird species and will address limiting factors for suitable habitat. List specific actions taken to achieve these strategies.

Examples:

- a. Use a hand crew to cut down and remove eastern red cedar from historic turkey roost sites.
- b. Prescribe burn 50 acres of coastal bermudagrass during the winter, followed by a treatment of glyphosate in late spring. Drill native seeds in early spring of the following year.
- c. Utilize winter prescribed fire at 3-year intervals to reduce the coverage of yaupon holly.
- d. Roller chop strips 200 feet wide through mesquite; defer grazing for one year and follow up with a prescribed fire in year 3.
- e. Remove 2000 feet of pattern drainage tile from prairie pothole complex.
- f. Establish a 200-yard wide native mixed grass buffer around 30 acres of restored prairie pothole.
- g. Install three 4-inch solar water wells on a 400-acre tract of private land to ensure water supply to 27-acre constructed wetland.
- h. Remove 6000 cubic yards of sediment and organic matter from upper reaches of bayou.

12. Project monitoring plan: Identify current or proposed monitoring program to assess and quantify the results achieved against the goals of the project (Item #10). Include short-term and long-term monitoring plans. Habitat and species monitoring are preferred including, but not limited to, photo points and direction, vegetation line transects, sampling plots, breeding bird surveys, bobwhite covey call counts, turkey roost counts and gobble counts. Additional ranking points will be given to bobwhite quail proposals using standardized bird monitoring protocols (e.g. spring/fall point counts).

13. Project Continuation Potential: Please identify the resources (e.g. equipment, funding, work force, and/or staff/volunteers) to continue the project into the future without additional Game Bird Stamp funding.

14. Habitat Management Experience: Please describe the applicant's

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(individual, agency, or group) ability and history to successfully complete habitat-related work. Provide examples of previous work completed such as acres treated and specific sites or coordination of contract labor.

15. Strategic Game Bird Plan: Please identify 3 or more specific goals, objectives, and/or strategies identified in the respective Game Bird Plans that will be accomplished by implementing this proposed habitat work. See [Upland](#), [Webless](#), or [Waterfowl](#) for the respective strategic plan.
16. Research: Identify research components, if any, associated with this habitat proposal. Research costs **are not covered** under this grant, but may add value in the ranking process.
17. Resources: Please list the resources available to ensure the project is completed and potentially continued into the future.
18. Additional Comments: Include any additional information that would be useful to evaluate this proposed project. Elaborate beyond the scope of the questions below.
 - a. Is this project part of a larger, more comprehensive wildlife management plan, strategy, or initiative?
 - b. Will the project serve as a future demonstration area?
 - c. Will the project address the limiting factor(s) to improve habitat?

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Provide a detailed budget ([Download fillable Excel budget template](#))

BUDGET (US Dollars) for FY15	Funding Sources --- Indicate in-kind contributions in <i>italics</i>			
Expense category with examples (add or delete items as appropriate)	Applicant	Other Sources (Provide name of funding source)		Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Status of funding (secured, highly probable, requested)	Secured	Secured	Highly Probable	Requested
Personnel				
Salaries-(Provide list of individuals working on project)				
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Benefits				
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Travel/Accommodations				
Travel (Identify, i.e. mileage, lodging, etc.)				
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Materials/equipment				
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other				
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Direct Cost (TDC)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Administrative Overhead				
Indirect Costs (not to exceed 15%)				
TOTALS by funding source	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Applicant	\$ -			
Other	\$ -			
TPWD	\$ -			
Total Project Cost	\$ -			
Percent of matching contributions to requested TPWD funds =		#DIV/0!		
Percent that is Indirect costs =		#DIV/0!		